



FEMA

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the purpose of the FY 2020 HSGP?

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) is one of three grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) focus on enhancing the ability of state, local, tribal and territorial governments, as well as nonprofits, to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks. These grant programs are part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by DHS to help strengthen the nation's communities against potential terrorist attacks.

2. What legislation authorizes funding for the FY 2020 HSGP?

Sections 2002 to 2004 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, Pub. L. No. 107-296, codified as amended at 6 U.S.C. §§ 603-605, and the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2020* (Pub. L. No. 116-93)

3. How much funding is available under the FY 2020 HSGP?

Per the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2020* (Pub. L. No. 116-93), \$1,120,000,000 is available for funding under the FY 2020 HSGP. The total amount of available funding for each of the three programs:

HSGP Programs	FY 2020 Allocation
State Homeland Security Program	\$415,000,000
Urban Area Security Initiative	\$615,000,000
Operation Stonegarden	\$90,000,000
Total	\$1,120,000,000

4. What are the changes in funding levels between FY 2019 and FY 2020?

The funding level for the SHSP in FY 2020 is \$415 million, the same funding level in FY 2019. The funding level of the UASI is \$615 million, \$25 million more than the funding level in FY 2019. The funding level in FY 2020 for the OPSG Program is \$90 million, the same funding level in FY 2019.

5. Where is the FY 2020 HSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity located?

The FY 2020 HSGP NOFO is located online at <http://www.fema.gov/grants> as well as www.grants.gov.

6. Who is eligible to apply for FY 2020 HSGP funds?

The State Administrative Agency (SAA) is the only entity eligible to submit HSGP applications to DHS/FEMA, including those applications submitted on behalf of UASI and OPSG applicants. All 56 states and territories, which includes any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, are eligible to apply for SHSP funds. A list of eligible urban areas and OPSG states can be found in the FY 2020 HSGP NOFO. Tribal governments may not apply directly for HSGP funding; however, funding may be available to tribes under the SHSP and OPSG through the SAA.

Eligible high-risk urban areas for the FY 2020 UASI program have been determined through an analysis of relative risk of terrorism faced by the 100 most populous metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in the United States. Subawards will be made by the SAA to the designated urban areas identified in the FY 2020 HSGP NOFO. In the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2020 Appropriation for the Department of Homeland Security, Congress expressed its intent that the Secretary fund up to 85 percent of nationwide risk in the UASI program. ***In accordance with that intent, the Secretary designated 32 urban areas eligible for funding under the UASI program.*** This is an increase from the 31 urban areas eligible in FY 2019.

Under the FY 2020 OPSG Program, subrecipients eligible to apply for and receive a sub-award directly from the SAA are divided into three tiers. Tier 1 entities are local units of government at the county level or equivalent and Federally recognized tribal governments that are on a physical border in states bordering Canada, states bordering Mexico, and states and territories with international water borders. Tier 2 eligible subrecipients are those not located on the physical border or international water border but are contiguous to a Tier 1 county. Tier 3 eligible subrecipients are those not located on the physical border or international water border but are contiguous to a Tier 2 eligible subrecipient. The tier structure is only applicable with regard to eligibility. OPSG funding allocations are based on the assessed border security risks as determined by the USBP.

7. How will FY 2020 HSGP applications be submitted?

Applying for an award under the HSGP is a multi-step process:

Eligible applicants must submit their initial application through the grants.gov portal at least 7 days before the final application deadline at <http://www.grants.gov>. Applicants needing grants.gov support should contact the customer support hotline at (800) 518-4726.

Eligible applicants will be notified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and asked to proceed with submitting their complete application package in the [Non Disaster \(ND\) Grants System](#). Applicants needing technical support with the ND Grants System should contact ndgrants@fema.dhs.gov or (800) 865-4076, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.

Completed applications must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. ET on April 15, 2020.

8. What are the key dates associated with the FY 2020 HSGP?

- February 14, 2020: Release date for the FY 2020 HSGP NOFO.
- April 15, 2020, 5 p.m. ET: Applications for the FY 2020 HSGP due to FEMA.

9. How will the FY 2020 HSGP funds be allocated?

The FY 2020 allocation process for SHSP, UASI and OPSG will be as follows:

SHSP Allocations

For FY 2020, DHS/FEMA will award SHSP funds based on risk and the anticipated effectiveness of the proposed use of grant funds. Targeted allocation ranges are provided for each State based on DHS/FEMA's relative risk methodology pursuant to the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended. States are strongly encouraged to apply for funding at least 15% over the high end of their target allocation range as ineffective applications will not be funded. Final award amounts will be based on DHS/FEMA's evaluation of the effectiveness of proposed investments and projects.

UASI Allocations

For FY 2020, DHS/FEMA will award funding based on risk and the anticipated effectiveness of the proposed use of grant funds. Targeted allocation ranges are provided for each high-risk urban area based on DHS/FEMA's relative risk methodology pursuant to the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for funding at least 15% over the high end of their target allocation range as ineffective applications will not be funded. Final award amounts will be based on DHS/FEMA's evaluation of the effectiveness of proposed investments and projects.

OPSG Allocations

For FY 2020, DHS/FEMA will award OPSG funds based on risk and the anticipated effectiveness of the proposed use of grant funds. The FY 2020 OPSG risk assessment is designed to identify the risk to border security and to assist with the distribution of funds for the grant program. Entities eligible for funding are the state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies that are located along the border of the United States. Final award amounts will be based on DHS/FEMA's evaluation of the effectiveness of proposed investments and projects.

Further, SHSP and UASI applicants will be required to submit an Investment Justification (IJ) for each of the following four national priorities and their associated minimum spend requirements:

1. Cybersecurity: 5 percent
2. Soft Targets/Crowded Places: 5 percent
3. Intelligence and Information Sharing: 5 percent
4. Emerging Threats: 5 percent

For complete details on the FY 2020 HSGP allocation process, see the FY 2020 HSGP NOFO.

10. What is the FY 2020 HSGP period of performance?

The period of performance is 36 months.

11. What other resources are available to address programmatic, technical, and financial questions?

- For additional program-specific information, applicants may contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) help line at (800) 368-6498 or askcsid@fema.dhs.gov. CSID hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.
- For support regarding financial grant management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the DHS/FEMA Grant Operations Help Desk via e-mail at ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov.